

STAT

Page Denied

STAT

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF CHINA TO DEVELOP COMMUNICATIONS

Hsin-hua Yueh-pao
Peiping, Jan 1954

[Summary: Premier Chou En-lai issued the following directive on 27 November 1953 calling upon local governments to develop latent possibilities in transportation and communications. He also ordered the creation of new local communications control offices and the abolition of some existing ones.]

Communications are becoming increasingly important in connection with the nation's program of economic expansion. However, due to the inherent weakness of China's communications, it is necessary to develop the latent possibilities in the field of local communications to strengthen our nation's economy.

Therefore, in order to fully exploit the potentials of transportation at local levels, steps must be taken to improve the management of state-operated local transportation enterprises, to reorganize privately operated enterprises, and to strengthen government control over people's transportation organizations.

Local governments must finance improvements for both land and water transport and take the initiative in the construction of needed highways, bridges, ferry landings, and port facilities.

In addition to the resolutions on transportation and communications adopted by the National Communications Conference in 1953 and the directives of the Ministry of Communications, the Government Administration Council has issued the following order governing transportation enterprises.

A. Scope of Control by Local Governments over Communication Facilities

Other than automobile parts factories, which are beyond the ability of any one provincial government to operate or which are already being operated by the Ministry of Communications, the operation of all motor transport and affiliated enterprises are limited to provincial and municipal governments.

Local governments will be responsible for the construction and maintenance of national defense highways, arterial highways, cart roads, rural roads, and local service facilities which are within the scope of communication operations. Local governments are authorized to collect and to administer highway maintenance fees.

Other than shipping facilities directly under the Ministry of Communications, local governments will operate shipping on inland waterways and for short distances along the seacoasts. Local governments must dredge inland waterways and maintain all port facilities. Local governments will operate public bus systems and other urban transportation facilities. In accordance with national financial policy, local governments will organize and assume control over all private and semi-public transportation facilities. Local governments will assume responsibility for any other communication operations as directed by the central or major area governments.

STAT

B. Financing and Planning of Local Communications Enterprises

Subject to supervision by the finance and economic committees of the major administrative areas, local governments will receive all income from local communications enterprises and will be responsible for their financing.

C. Control of Local Communication Affairs

While the Ministry of Communications assumes the leadership in policy matters concerning communications and gives technical assistance in addition to arranging for exchanges of experience among communications personnel, local governments are directly responsible for control and leadership in the operation of local communications enterprises. Offices in charge of communication matters should regularly report to their level of government on current conditions and request instructions in connection with the administration of communications operations in their respective areas. Special attention should be paid to the implementation of policy matters and to the encouragement of the people in their development of innovations at local levels.

To implement the leadership of local governments and to improve local communications, each major administrative area must create a Bureau of Communications which will be responsible for the administration of provincial and municipal communication enterprises. Similarly, each province will create a Department of Communications, each special district or hsien a communications section, and each municipality a communications office. The personnel and administrative expenses of these various units will be the responsibility of each respective level of government.

In view of these new instructions, various existing highway control bureaus and the navigation control bureaus of the Central-South and East China administrative areas are hereby abolished.

- E N D -

STAT